

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

CCO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 SAJ-01

ACDA-19 EUR-25 SAB-01 SCCT-02 SR-02 ORM-03 AID-20

OMB-01 AF-10 NIC-01 SY-04 A-01 M-02 OPR-02 USSS-00

SCS-03 SCA-01 DRC-01 /206 W
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P R 081532Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9543

DIA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 9445

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS PINS LE IS

SUBJ: ISRAELI AIR ATTACKS ON LEBANON

REF: DAO BEIRUT 506 NOTAL

1. AUG 6 ABDUCTION OF ISRAELI CIVILIAN WORKERS BY FEDAYEEN,
KIDNAPPING OF LEBANESE VILLAGERS BY IDF IN RETALIATION, AND
TWO SUBSEQUENT IAF AIR ATTACKS ON SOUTHEASTERN LEBANON,
(SECOND OF WHICH ON AUG 7 HIT LEBANESE TOWN AND CAUSED LEBANESE
MILITARY AND CIVILIAN CASUALTIES IN ADDITION TO PALESTINIAN
LOSSES) INDICATE THAT FAMILIAR CYCLE OF FEDAYEEN PROVOCATION
AND ISRAELI RETALIATION MAY AGAIN BE ON UPSWING AFTER SEVERAL
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WEEKS' RESPITE. PFLP--IN STATEMENT ALLEGEDLY RPT ALLEGEDLY

ISSUED IN DAMASCUS--HAS CLAIMED CREDIT FOR AUG 6 KIDNAP OPERATION. IN ADDITION, FEDAYEEN PROPAGANDA APPARATUS HERE, LED BY DIE-HARD COMMANDO FACTIONS, HAS AS USUAL BEGUN CHURNING OUT SCARE STORIES RE "VAST" IDF CONCENTRATIONS ALONG BORDER IN PREPARATION FOR LARGE-SCALE OPERATION AGAINST LEBANON. ALL THIS IS ONCE AGAIN BEING SOAKED UP BY LEFTIST PRESS, WITH RECENT WAR-TALK EMANATING FROM ISRAELI LEADERS BEING USED TO LEND CREDENCE TO SUCH NONSENSE.

2. AS IN PAST, THIS SSITUATION SEEMS LIKELY TO PRODUCE (A) RENEW PRESSURE ON OTHER FEDAYEEN GROUPS, ESPECIALLY SO-CALLED "MODERATES" WHO CANNOT APPEAR OUTDONE, TO JOIN ACT IN SOUTH LEBANON, (B) FURTHER AND MORE INDISCRIMINATE ISRAELI REPRISALS, AND (C) INCREASING DESPAIR AND BEFUDDLEMENT ON PART OF GOL, WHOSE INABILITY TO INTERDICT FEDAYEEN BORDER ACTIVITY ENTIRELY OR TO PROTECT ITS POPULATION AGAINST ISRAELI REPRISALS HAS LONG BEEN PATENT. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE WISH POINT OUT AGAIN THAT ISRAELI PRACTICE OVER PAST SEVERAL MONTHS OF USING AIR STRIKES IN EFFORT TO DISCOURAGE FEDAYEEN CROSS-BORDER OPERATIONS HAS NOT WORKED. IN FACT, WITH RESPECT TO WHAT WE PRESUME IN ITS PRIMARY AIM--CURTAILMENT OF FEDAYEEN OPERATIONS--SUCH PRACTICE HAS GENERALLY BACKFIRED, AND WE SEE NO SIGN THAT IT WILL ACHIEVE ANY DIFFERENT RESULT THIS TIME.
GODLEY

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